

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 L-03 JUSE-00 AID-20 CEA-02

CIAE-00 COME-00 EUR-25 FRB-02 INR-10 IO-14 NEA-10

NSAE-00 RSC-01 OPIC-12 SPC-03 TRSE-00 CIEP-02 LAB-06

SIL-01 SWF-02 OMB-01 FTC-01 NSC-07 SS-20 STR-08 INT-08

FEA-02 PA-04 USIA-15 PRS-01 H-03 /206 R

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JUSTICE - JDAVIDOW (SUBS)

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R 052212Z MAR 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

UNCLAS STATE 044123

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, US, JA

SUBJECT: ANTITRUST: GOJ FAIR TRADE COMMISSION ACTION
AGAINST MAJOR OIL COMPANIES

1. FEBRUARY 28 ISSUE OF PRIVATELY-PUBLISHED NEWSLETTER
"TARIFFS AND TRADE - A REPORT TO EXECUTIVES ON INTER-
NATIONAL BUSINESS" REPORTS THAT GOJ'S FAIR TRADE COMMISSION
HAS FILED CRIMINAL CHARGES WITH PUBLIC PROSECUTOR'S
OFFICE AGAINST TWELVE MAJOR OIL COMPANIES FOR VIOLATION
OF ANTITRUST LAWS. REPORT FURTHER STATES THAT THE CRIMINAL
CHARGES COME SHORTLY AFTER ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE OIL
COMPANIES OF THEIR ACCEPTANCE OF AN INJUNCTION TO END A
PRICE-FIXING CARTEL.

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2. THE REPORT DOES NOT NAME THE COMPANIES, BUT SOME U.S.

FIRMS WOULD ALMOST CERTAINLY BE INCLUDED IN ANY LIST OF TWELVE MAJOR OIL COMPANIES. IF THE REPORT IS ACCURATE, THE GOJ AS AN OECD MEMBER SHOULD HAVE INFORMED USG OF THESE ANTITRUST ACTIONS UNDER OECD NOTIFICATION PROCEDURE OF 1967. NO SUCH NOTIFICATION HAS BEEN RECEIVED CONCERNING EITHER THE CIVIL INJUNCTION OR CRIMINAL CHARGES MENTIONED PARA 1. EMBASSY REQUESTED TO LOOK INTO ACCURACY OF THIS REPORT AND FORWARD ANY READILY AVAILABLE BACKGROUND INFORMATION. KISSINGER

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